

Work Plan:
State Administration Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee (SAIC)
2001-2002

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Last revised on April 1, 2002

Assigned studies

- ? SJR 5: Veterans' Issues Study- Assigned to Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs
- ? HJR 8: Voting Systems Study - Assigned to Subcommittee on Voting Systems

Major statutory responsibilities

The SAIC must review and request legislation and conduct general rule review, program evaluation, and program monitoring functions for the following executive branch agencies and any administratively attached but independent agencies:

- ? Department of Administration
 - Public Employee Retirement Board
 - Teachers' Retirement Board
- ? Department of Military Affairs
 - Montana Veterans' Affairs Board/Division
- ? Office of the Secretary of State
 - Commissioner of Political Practices

Traditional activities and responsibilities

- ? Pre-session screening of potential retirement plan legislation
- ? Adoption of retirement plan policy statements and/or specific recommendations

Proposed work plan

Staff proposed a total of 14 meetings, either as a full committee or partially split between two subcommittees. These meetings break out as follows:

- ? 1 organizational meeting (*conducted June 15*)
- ? 5 veterans' SJR 5-related meetings (*see SJR 5 work plan attached*)
- ? 4 voting systems HJR 8 meetings (*see HJR 8 work plan attached*)
- ? 1 meeting on homeland security issues (*see SAIC work plan attached*)
- ? 3 meetings to integrate subcommittee final recommendations, accomplish oversight functions, and adopt final report and recommendations (*see SAIC work plan attached*)

Full SAIC's Work Plan

As of April 1, 2002

Meeting Date	Study Phase	Research Tasks/ Policy Issues
June 15, 2001 <i>Mtg. #1</i>	Organizational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elected officers - Received overviews on assigned agencies (Dept. of Admin, Dept. of Military Affairs, Sec. of State's Office, Commissioner of Political Practices, Retirement Boards) - Adopted a study plan - Appointed Subcommittees
Jan. 25, 2002 <i>Mtg. #2</i>	Emerging Issue: Homeland Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hearing, presentations by agency directors and the Governor on homeland security issues of concern, recent agency activities, and the Governor's Homeland Security Task Force
June 21, 2002 <i>Mtg. #3</i>	Subcommittee Reports Agency legislation reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SJR 5 and HJR 8 Subcommittees will present recommendations - Staff review of agencies assigned to SAIC for monitoring purposes - Staff background report on retirement systems - Agencies will begin to present proposed legislation for SAIC review so bill drafts can be requested
July 25-26, 2002 <i>Mtg. #4</i>	Agency legislation review Final recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public hearings on retirement plan legislation - Continue to review agency legislation - Adoption of committee legislation, final recommendations
Aug. 21, 2002 (staff action)	Draft Final Report	- Staff submits draft final report for Director review and editing
Sept. 4, 2002 (staff action)	Mailing to SAIC	- Mailing of edited final reports and bills to SAIC members
Sept. 13, 2002 <i>Mtg. #5</i>	Final actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committee actions to formally adopt requested Committee legislation - Committee adoption of final report

HJR 8 Election Reform Work Plan

Updated April 1, 2002

Meeting Date	Study Phase	Major Agenda Items
Sept. 5, 2001 Mtg. #1	Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff reviewed HJR 8 study tasks - Staff reviewed findings and recommendations of other studies - Staff report on legal framework of <u>Bush v. Gore</u> - Received testimony and info. from Sec. of State, Clerks & Recorders, League of Women Voters on voting system issues - Subcommittee adopted study plan and research tasks
Nov. 14, 2002 Mtg. #2	Problem Identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff reviewed of current Montana statutes on voting systems - Sec. of State reviewed guidance on counts and recounts - Legal staff presented memo further analyzing <u>Bush v. Gore</u> and Montana statutes - Panel discussions reviewing processes and problems associated with paper, optical scan, punch card, and lever machine voting systems - Outline of possible options for further consideration - Staff presented Issues and Options Paper #1 - Subcommittee directed staff to draft discussion bill to ban punchcard ballots
Jan. 24 2001 Mtg. #3	Options & Preliminary recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sec of State updated Subcommittee on federal legislation - Panel discussed how to standardize training and develop uniform guidelines for counting and recounting votes - Staff reviewed two bills drafted for discussion purposes (LC 8881 to ban punchcard ballots, and LC 8882 generally revising statutes pertaining to voting systems)
April 24, 2002 Mtg. #4	Final Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subcommittee will take public comment on proposed bill drafts and discuss, amend, and adopt final recommendations and bill drafts
June 21, 2002 <i>Full SAIC</i>	Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subcommittee will present its final recommendations to the full SAIC

SJR 5 Veterans' Affairs Work Plan

Updated April 1, 2002

Meeting Date	Study Phase	Research Tasks/ Policy Issues
Aug. 6, 2001 <i>Mtg. #1</i>	Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Veteran Service Organizations presented overviews of who they are, how they interact with MVAD and what their primary concerns and issues are going into the interim - highlight, VVA Chap. 626 presented the "Core Document" entitled "Caring for Our Wounded", which started a series of "ripple" effects related to the VA Montana Health Care System - Proposal and adoption of the study plan
Sep 26-27, 2001 <i>Mtg. #2</i>	Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subcommittee traveled to Glendive and Miles City, held hearings on Eastern Montana Veterans' Nursing Home, Eastern Montana Veterans' Cemetery, VA health care clinic and nursing home in Miles City, overview of MVAD field office and benefit claims process
Nov 15-16, 2001 <i>Mtg. #3</i>	Problem Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on effort to establish and state veterans' cemetery in Western Montana - Research reports on veteran population, anatomy of federal and state veterans' services, MVAD, Montana statutes, and the Board of Veterans' Affairs - Fiscal report on state financing of veterans' services - Update on activities related to the "Caring for Our Wounded" document - Panel discussions on benefit claims, employment and training, health care, mental health, and chemical dependency, homelessness, veteran service organizations, local government and community issues, safety nets and cost shifting, structure and funding of state veterans' services - Subcommittee discussed issues and options but took no action
Oct.-Dec. 2001	Audit Requested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff recommends and Subcommittee members approve request for a Performance Audit of MVAD. LAC approves request. LAD staff assigned. Audit process begins
	OMI site visit to Ft. Harrison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In response to "Caring for Our Wounded" document, VA Office of Medical Investigation sends team to conduct a "site visit" at Fort Harrison
Jan 25, 2002 <i>Mtg. #4</i>	Analysis of Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Panel discussion on MVAD VSOs and Employment and Training officers of the VET program and the LVERS and DVOPs and how to improve communication and coordination - Staff info. brief on veterans' burial costs, license plat fees, and Western Montana Cemetery - Issues and Options paper on Mission, Structure, and Funding of State Veterans' Services - Subcommittee action to request preliminary bill draft to revise Board of Veterans' Affairs
June 20, 2002 <i>Mtg. #5</i>	Final Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of MVAD's Performance Audit findings and recommendations - Public Comment - Staff review of bill drafts prepared for Subcommittee consideration - Executive work session for Subcommittee to adopt final recommendations
June 21, 2002 <i>Full SAIC</i>	Presentation	Subcommittee presents final recommendations to the full SAIC